benefit of farmers in drought-affected States;

(b) whether Government have made any long-term planning to face such natural disaster; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYANYADAV): (a) Sale price of Urea to farmers is subsidized and Urea is sold at uniform price to farmers throughout the country, including the drought-affected States.

(b) and (c) Necessary action is required to be taken by the State Governments concerned. The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the States.

Bhoomi e. governance project of Karnataka

3124. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhoomi e-governance Project of Karnataka for Computerising 20 million rural land records, received Stockholm Challenge Award, if so, which are the other Indian e-governance projects selected for the above award; and

(b) whether there is any proposal with Government to implement the above project in other States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYANYADAV): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pathetic conditions of agricultural labourers in Tamil Nadu

3125. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Thanjavour and Trichy regions of Tamil Nadu are entirely depending on agriculture only;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the pathetic conditions of the agricultural labourers, at the time of monsoon failure;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider to have heavy industries in that region, in order to provide employment for these unemployed labourers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Thanjavour and Trichy regions of Tamil Nadu depend only on agriculture. Problems arising from Monsoon failure and the paucity of water in Cauvery add to the difficulties of agricultural labourers in these regions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Brackishwater shrimp culture in Orissa

3126. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases from Orissa awaiting Aquaculture Authority's clearance for taking up Brackish water Shrimp culture and since when;

(b) the reasons for not giving clearance; and

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed by Government for expeditious clearance of requests for Brackish water Shrimp culture from Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Out of the total of 1806 applications received from Orissa for taking up brackishwater shrimp culture, applications pertaining to setting up of farms in and around Chilka Lake area numbering about 857 have been defererred since March 1999 pending clarification from the Apex Court regarding its directives for undertaking traditional/improved traditional farming practices in and around Chilka Lake.

(c) For expeditious clearance of applications, the Aquaculture Authority has recently restricted the scrutiny of applications to the Departments of Groundwater, Revenue and Fisheries.